

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176034
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 176034

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 12 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS THAT UPON
ARRIVING IN GENEVA, SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE CONVEYED
STRONG FEELINGS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEKING A STRATEGIC
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 176034

ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT. DESPITE REPORTED ANGER IN THE
U.S. AND IN OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES OVER THE TRIALS OF TWO
SOVIET DISSIDENTS, VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI
GROMYKO ARE MEETING IN GENEVA FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON LIMITA-
TION OF STRATEGIC ARMS. US OFFICIALS ON VANCE'S PLANE
STATED THE TALKS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO
RESOLVE WITHOUT THE ADDED COMPLICATION OF THE DISSIDENTS'

TRIALS. GWERTZMAN POINTS OUT THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC ARMS ISSUES LEFT TO BE RESOLVED INCLUDE OBTAINING ASSURANCE FROM SOVIET UNION THAT THE BACKFIRE BOMBER WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND THE QUESTION OF WHAT EXEMPTIONS ARE TO BE PERMITTED IN A BAN ON NEW MISSILES SYSTEMS. ACCORDING TO TEXT, REPORTERS WERE TOLD ON VANCE'S PLANE THAT THE ISSUE OF NEW MISSILES SYSTEMS WILL MORE LIKELY BE RESOLVED ON THIS TRIP THAN THE PROBLEM WITH BACK-

FIRE BOMBER.

2. WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENTS ROBERT KAISER AND WALTER PINCUS SAID THAT TRIALS OF TWO SOVIET DISSIDENTS ARE "CREATING NEW PRESSURE FOR A FORMAL CHILLING OF RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW". ACCORDING TO TEXT, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS REVEALED THAT EFFORTS TO GAIN RELEASE OF ONE OF THE DISSIDENTS, ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY, WERE ATTEMPTED BEFORE START OF HIS TRIAL. A CARTER ASSOCIATE OBSERVED THE PRESSURE HAS BEEN BUILDING "FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT TO DO THINGS THAT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND TAKE US BACK TO THE COLD WAR". A SENATOR, THE TEXT POINTS OUT, REVEALED THAT PRESSURES INCLUDED A PHONE CALL FROM A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL TELLING HIM HOW "OUTRAGEOUS" IT WAS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS ABOUT TO APPROVE TWO SALES OF SOPHISTICATED U.S. TECHNOLOGY TO THE SOVIETS AT THIS MOMENT. POLITICAL PRESSURE HAS ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 176034

BEEN GENERATED ON CAPITOL HILL IN THE FORM OF PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. SENATOR HENRY JACKSON (D-WA) CHALLENGED CARTER TO CANCEL THE PROPOSED SALES OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY GOODS TO SOVIET UNION, A PROPOSAL WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY SENATOR PATRICK MOYNIHAN (D-NY). SENATOR DON RIEGLE (D-MICH) CALLED THE TRIALS THE WORK OF "SICK AND TWISTED BUREAUCRATIC MIDGETS," AND NOTED THAT HE WOULD NOT SUPPORT SALT TWO WITH A NATION "THAT TERRORIZES ITS OWN PEOPLE". SENATOR HOWARD BAKER (R-TENN) ASKED FOR A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE SALT TALKS. WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY SAID LAST NIGHT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE FOR ANY PROGRESS ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS DURING THIS ROUND OF TALKS IN PART BECAUSE VANCE WILL USE THE MEETING TO RAISE AMERICAN VIEWS ON SOVIET TRIALS.

3. ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON POST'S DON OBERDORFER, ALSO REPORTING ON THE VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING IN GENEVA, VANCE IS CARRYING A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM CARTER TO SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV ABOUT THE TRIALS OF SHCHARANSKY, ALEXANDER GINZBURG AND OTHER DISSIDENTS, AND A SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL U.S. ACTIONS TO DIS-

PLAY DISAPPROVAL ARE UNDER STUDY.

4. A WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL CONTENDS THAT CYRUS VANCE IS WHERE HE SHOULD BE--IN GENEVA NEGOTIATING A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. THE TEXT ASSERTS THAT TO SUSPEND THE TALKS NOW WOULD ONLY "UNDERCUT THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE EDITORIAL DOES POINT OUT THAT INDIVIDUALS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISAPPROVE OF THE TRIALS, BUT THAT RESPONSIBLE SENATORS "HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO EXPRESS THEIR REVULSION IN TERMS MINDFUL OF AMERICAN INTERESTS".

AND AMERICAN INTERESTS, THE TEXT NOTES, INCLUDE COMPLETING A "GOOD SALT AGREEMENT".

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 176034

5. THE HARTFORD COURANT PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL CRITICIZING SENATOR HENRY JACKSON FOR ALLOWING HIS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, RICHARD PERLE, TO PREJUDGE THE PENDING SALT TWO AGREEMENT BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE TREATY. THE COURANT ALSO CALLED REMARKS THAT PERLE MADE, WHICH IMPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE ACDA PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SALT TWO RATIFICATION PROCESS, INCONSIDERATE. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED IN STATING THAT "THE ARMS LIMITATION NEGOTIATIONS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE JEOPARDIZED BY THE PRECONCEPTION OF A CAPITOL HILL BUREAUCRAT".

6. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT (JULY 17) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN STRESSED THAT THE U.S. NOT UNDERRATE ITS STRATEGIC CAPABILITY, EITHER IN PLANNING OR IN WHAT WE SAY. "IF WE KEEP SAYING WE'RE MUCH WEAKER THAN THE RUSSIANS STRATEGICALLY," BROWN CONTENDS, "THEY MAY BEGIN TO BELIEVE IT." BROWN SAID THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. IS NOT WEAKER. THE PROBLEM IN PERCEIVING OUR STRENGTH, ACCORDING TO THE TEXT, IN PART STEMS FROM WHAT OUR EXISTING STRENGTH IS AND IN WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS. NOTING THAT THE PRESENT PARITY IN STRATEGIC FORCES IS ACCURATE, BROWN POINTS OUT THAT THERE ARE UNCERTAINTIES IN THE FUTURE. AND ACCORDING TO BROWN, CONFUSING PRESENT AND FUTURE STATUS CAN LEAD TO FALSE IMPRESSIONS. BROWN IS ATTEMPTING TO GIVE AN ACCURATE IMPRESSION OF THE PRESENT STRATEGIC SITUATION RATHER THAN EXAGGERATING THE THREAT OF SOVIET CAPABILITIES, WHICH HE BELIEVES GIVES PEOPLE AN "UNJUSTIFIABLY PANICKY VIEW OF THE WORLD."

7. THE NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED A COLUMN BY SENATOR CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS (R-MD) WHICH STATED THAT A STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 176034

THE UNITED STATES AND THE "PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT BE AT ALL DEFENSIVE ABOUT EXPLAINING WHY TO AMERICAN PEOPLE." THE SENATOR SAID THAT DECISIONS WE MAKE NOW CONCERNING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS WILL DETERMINE THE FATE OF THE WORLD. AND THAT EVEN AS THESE NEGOTIATIONS GO ON, "THE DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITIES OF THE U.S. AND SOVIET UNION GROW INCREMENTALLY GREATER EVERY MINUTE. MATHIAS STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER MUST GET ACROSS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE WORLD IS TO ELIMINATE ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CHRISTOPHER

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